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Mark Muhlestein

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NETWORK APPLIANCE/BLAKELY
12400 WILSHIRE BLVD
SEVENTH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

EXAMINER

ABRISHAMKAR, KAVEH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/728,701

Applicant(s)

MUHLESTEIN, MARK

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 18-34, 37-43, 45, 57, 59, 60, 62, 74-77, 79 and 91-93 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 18-34, 37-43, 45, 57, 59, 60, 62, 74-77, 79 and 91-93 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date US106
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on June 5, 2006. Claims 92 and 93 have been newly added.

2. Claims 1-15, 18-34, 37-43, 45, 57, 59-60, 62, 74-77, 79 and 91-93 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on June 5, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:

Regarding claims 1, 12, 91, and 93 the Applicant argues that the Cited Prior Art (CPA), Bates et al. (U.S. Patent 6,785,732), does not teach "scanning said object using a combination of vendors' products." This argument is not found persuasive. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Since, there is more than one virus application available for scanning the object, it is interpreted that a combination of vendors' products are used to scan the object.

Regarding newly added claim 93, the Applicant argues that the CPA does not teach "scanning a file simultaneously for viruses using a combination of vendors' products." This argument is not found persuasive. There is insufficient support for this

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limitation in the specification, as there is no explicit mention of "scanning a file simultaneously" for a virus in the specification. The CPA, Bates et al. (U.S. 6,721, 721), teaches processing files and scanning them in a cluster (column 3 lines 48-54) to improve efficiency as described in the cited sections. Furthermore, based on the above argument describing the drop-down box as allowing the user to select one of many different virus applications, it is asserted that the CPA does teach "scanning a file simultaneously for viruses using a combination of vendors' products."

Therefore, the rejection is maintained for the pending claims, and applied to the newly added claims as given below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 92 teaches "a cluster of interconnected personal computers that scan the file simultaneously for viruses using a combination of vendors' products." The specification never explicitly mentions this step of each computer in a cluster using different vendors' products to simultaneously scan a file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 18-19, 21-22, 37-38, and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tso et al. (U.S. Patent 6,088,803) in view of Bates et al. (U.S. Patent 6,785,732).

Regarding claim 1, Tso discloses:

A method of attempting to provide virus protection including the steps of:
receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);
responding to said request, wherein said step of responding includes delivery of a response to said user (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 - 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products

to scan the file in order to “determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked” (column 8 lines 61-66).

Claim 2 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 1 wherein said request is in an electronic form (column 2 lines 62 – 67).

Claim 3 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 1. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 1, wherein said object is a file stored in a filer (column 2 line 62 – column 3 line 5).

Regarding claim 21, Tso discloses:

An apparatus for attempting to provide virus protection:

means for receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

means for responding to said request, wherein said means for responding includes delivery of a response to said user (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating “the drop-down box may contain

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many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications” (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors’ products to scan the file in order to “determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked” (column 8 lines 61-66).

Claim 22 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 21. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said object is a file stored in a filer (column 2 line 62 – column 3 line 5).

Claim 37 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 22. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said delivery of a response is delivery of said file (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Claim 38 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 22. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said delivery of a response includes delivery of notification to said user that said file is unavailable (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Regarding claim 91, Tso discloses:

Storage containing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to provide virus protection, the instructions to configure the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

responding to said request, wherein said step of responding includes delivery of a response to said user (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products to scan the file in order to "determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked" (column 8 lines 61-66).

Regarding claim 93, Tso discloses:

A method of attempting to provide virus protection including the steps of:

receiving at a first location a request from a user for an object (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

responding to said request, wherein said step of responding includes delivery of a response to said user (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products to scan the file in order to "determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked" (column 8 lines 61-66).

6. Claims 4-15,20,23-34, 39, 40-43,45,57,59,60,62,74-77, 79, and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tso et al. (U.S. Patent 6,088,803) in view of Bates et al. (U.S. Patent 6,785,732) further in view of Bates et al. (U.S. Patent 6,721,721).

Claim 4 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 3. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 3. Tso-Bates does not explicitly describe the use of a processing cluster to process files and generate reports. Patent '721 teaches creating

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an access path to a processing cluster, processing a file in the processing cluster, and generating a scan report that is responsive to the processing of the file in the processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent 721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits "the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers" (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, "by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved" (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 5 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the method of creating an access path including sending the ID and path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster. Patent '721 discloses sending the ID and the path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster (column 6 line 65 –

column 7 line 19). It would have been obvious to send the ID and path of the file to the processing cluster following the logic used above in rejecting the parent claims. Also, it would have been obvious since the files are stored in a database along with results of virus scans in both the inventions of Tso-Bates and Patent '721, that a ID is needed to identify the file and its resultant virus scan in a database.

Claim 6 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using non-uniform memory access (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 7 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using a communications network (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 8 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 5, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using a direct connection (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 9 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Tso does not explicitly describe the use of a round robin processing method in a cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster using a round robin method (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to

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methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Bates states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent ‘721 states, “by distributing the virus checking Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant’s invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the round robin processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent ‘721 to achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 10 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

Processing said file in parts. Tso does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent ‘721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent ‘721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Bates states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for

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generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant’s invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso with the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 11 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 4, wherein all files stored on said filer are encrypted in a logical continuous manner (column 3 lines 1 – 54).

Claim 12 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 4, wherein said scan report contains a set of status data relating to said processing of file (column 3 lines 39 – 54).

Claim 13 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 12. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 12, wherein said status data includes at least one data element identifying the presence or non-presence of a virus in said file (column 3 lines 39 – 54).

Claim 14 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 13. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 13, wherein said report is transferred to said filer (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 15 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 14. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 14, wherein said report is stored in a first database (column 5 lines 1 – 26).

Claim 18 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 3. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 3, wherein said delivery of a response is said file (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Claim 19 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 3. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 3, wherein said delivery of a response includes modification to said user that said file is unavailable (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 20 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 4. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The method of claim 4, wherein said step of responding to said request includes sending said user a copy of said report (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 23 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 22. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 22. Tso-Bates does not explicitly describe the use of a processing cluster to process files and generate scan reports. Patent '721 teaches creating an access path to a processing cluster, processing a file in the processing cluster, and generating a scan report that is responsive to the processing of the file in the processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source

of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 24 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the method of creating an access path including sending the ID and path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster. Patent '721 discloses sending the ID and the path of said file from said filer to said processing cluster (column 6 line 65 – column 7 line 19). It would have been obvious to send the ID and path of the file to the processing cluster following the logic used above in rejecting the parent claims. Also, it would have been obvious since the files are stored in a database along with results of virus scans in both the inventions of Tso-Bates and Patent '721, that a ID is needed to identify the file and its resultant virus scan in a database.

Claim 25 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 24. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using non-uniform memory access (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 26 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 24. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said step of sending is accomplished using a communications network (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 27 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 24. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said sending is accomplished using a direct connection (column 5 lines 1 – 63).

Claim 28 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Tso-Bates does not explicitly describe the use of a round robin processing method in a cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster using a round robin method (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the round robin processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

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Claim 29 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

Processing said file in parts. Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant’s invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 30 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein all files stored on said filer are encrypted in a logical continuous manner (column 3 lines 1 – 54).

Claim 31 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said report contains a set of status data relating to said processing of said file (column 3 lines 39 – 54).

Claim 32 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 31. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said status data includes at least one data element identifying the presence or non-presence of a virus in said file (column 3 lines 39 – 54).

Claim 33 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 31. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said report is transferred to said filer (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 34 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 33. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 33, wherein said report is stored in a first database (column 5 lines 1 – 26).

Claim 39 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 23. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said responding to said request includes sending said user some portion of said report (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Regarding claim 40, Tso discloses:

A method of attempting to provide virus protection in a client-server environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request at a server for a file (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

sending, from the server, an identifier for the file to a scanning device that scans the file for viruses (Figure 2 item 40, column 2 lines 38 – 44, column 3 lines 1 - 10);

receiving, at the server, an indication from the scanning device as to whether or not the file is safe to send from the server (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54);
and

responding to the request by sending the file if the indication is that the file is safe to send (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications"

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(column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products to scan the file in order to "determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked" (column 8 lines 61-66).

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits "the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers" (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, "by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved" (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 41 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 40. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

A method as in claim 40, wherein the scanning devices indicate that the file is safe to send if the scanning devices determine that the file is not infected with any viruses (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 42 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 40. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

A method as in claim 40, wherein the request is received from and the file is sent to a client device (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Claim 43 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 40. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

A method as in claim 40, wherein the server is a web server (Figure 1 item 7, column 2 lines 19 – 25).

Claim 45 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 40. Tso does not explicitly describe a cluster of interconnected computers. Bates teaches that the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). The logic for combination is given above in claim 44.

Regarding claim 57, Tso discloses:

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A server that attempts to provide virus protection services in a client-server environment, comprising:

a communication link to client devices (Figure 1 item 14, column 4 lines 3 – 10);

mass storage for files (Figure 4 item 30, column 5 lines 1 – 43); and

a processor that executes instructions in order to send requested files to the client devices, the instructions also including instructions

(a) to receive a request for a file (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 – 67),

(c) to respond to the request by sending the file (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with

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the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Claim 59 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 57. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

A server as in claim 57, wherein the request is received from and the file is sent to a client device (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Claim 60 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 57. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

A server as in claim 57, wherein the server is a web server (Figure 1 item 7, column 2 lines 19 – 25).

Claim 62 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 57. Tso does not explicitly describe a cluster of interconnected computers. Bates teaches that the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). The logic for combination is given above in claim 61.

Regarding claim 74, Tso discloses:

Storage containing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to attempt to provide virus protection in a client-server environment, the instructions to configure the processor to perform the steps of:

receiving a request at a server for a file (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

sending, from the server, an identifier for the file to a cluster of scanning devices that scan the file for viruses (Figure 2 item 40, column 2 lines 38 – 44, column 3 lines 1 - 10),

receiving, at the server, an indication from the scanning devices as to whether or not the file is safe to send from the server (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54); and

responding to the request by sending the file if the indication is that the file is safe to send (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products

to scan the file in order to “determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked” (column 8 lines 61-66).

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits “the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers” (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, “by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant’s invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information, and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose that the communication between the server and the cluster of scanning devices is performed using non-uniform memory access. Patent '721 teaches a virus-scanning environment wherein the scanning

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device is one of a cluster of scanning devices that can be used to scan for viruses (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). It was well-known in the art that NUMA-like performance can be achieved using clusters, with nodal latency being the only issue. However, NUMA is a memory architecture that is commonly used in multiprocessors like the ones used in the cited prior art Patent '721. However, it was well-known at the time of invention that the NUMA architecture overcomes scalability issues when many CPU's are involved. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the NUMA architecture in the cluster architecture of Patent '721 to reduce the number of CPUs competing for access to a shared memory bus, and henceforth, increasing the speed that each of the packets are processed.

Claim 75 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 74. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

Storage as in claim 74, wherein the scanning devices indicate that the file is safe to send if the scanning devices determine that the file is not infected with any viruses (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54).

Claim 76 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 74. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

Storage as in claim 74, wherein the request is received from and the file is sent to a client device (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Claim 77 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 74. Furthermore, Tso discloses:

Storage as in claim 74, wherein the server is a web server (Figure 1 item 7, column 2 lines 19 – 25).

Claim 79 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 74. Tso does not explicitly describe a cluster of interconnected computers. Patent '721 teaches that the cluster of devices is a cluster of interconnected personal computers (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). The logic for combination is given above in claim 78.

Regarding claim 92, Tso discloses:

A method comprising:

receiving a request at a web server from a client (Figure 2 item 20, column 2 lines 62 - 67);

sending, from the web server, an identifier for the file to a cluster of interconnected personal computers that scan the file simultaneously for viruses using combination of vendors' products, wherein communication between the web server and the cluster of interconnected personal computers (Figure 2 item 40, column 2 lines 38 – 44, column 3 lines 1 - 10),

receiving, at the web server, an indication from the cluster of interconnected computers as to whether or not the file is infected with a virus (Figure 3 item 200, column 3 lines 48 – 54); and

responding to the request by sending the file if the indication is that the file is safe to send (Figure 2 item 60, item 70, column 3 lines 1 – 10).

Tso does not explicitly teach processing said request at a second location, wherein said step of processing includes scanning said object for viruses using a combination of vendors' products. Bates teaches a drop-down box which can be used to select a specific virus scanning application, stating "the drop-down box may contain many different selections, including the names of many different virus applications" (column 8 lines 61-66). Tso and Bates are analogous arts because both disclose systems of scanning files for viruses. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a combination of vendors' products to scan the file in order to "determine which virus checker is best for the particular type of information being checked" (column 8 lines 61-66).

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose the file is processed in parts by more than one device in said processing cluster. Patent '721 teaches processing files in a processing cluster (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). Both Patent '721 and Tso pertain to methods of virus scanning and reporting and are therefore analogous arts. Patent '721 states that using multiple computers to scan for virus information permits "the responsibility for generating virus status information, as well as the processing horsepower required to generate the virus status information, to be allocated among the multiple computers" (column 3 lines 38 – 55). Further, Patent '721 states, "by distributing the virus checking responsibilities in this manner, a

comparatively greater volume of virus status information may be generated and/or the timeliness of updates to existing virus status information may be improved” (column 3 lines 51 – 55). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to combine the teachings of Tso-Bates with the processing cluster of virus scanning devices of Patent '721 to process the file in parts and achieve the benefits of reduction of processing power at the scanning device, diversifying the source of virus status information; and as a result, increasing the timeliness of virus status information and the volume of virus status information.

Tso-Bates does not explicitly disclose that the communication between the server and the cluster of scanning devices is performed using non-uniform memory access. Patent '721 teaches a virus-scanning environment wherein the scanning device is one of a cluster of scanning devices that can be used to scan for viruses (column 3 lines 38 – 55, column 4 lines 50-55, column 8 lines 16 – 29). It was well-known in the art that NUMA-like performance can be achieved using clusters, with nodal latency being the only issue. However, NUMA is a memory architecture that is commonly used in multiprocessors like the ones used in the cited prior art Patent '721. However, it was well-known at the time of invention that the NUMA architecture overcomes scalability issues when many CPU's are involved. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the NUMA architecture in the cluster architecture of Patent '721 to reduce the number of CPUs competing for access to a shared memory bus, and henceforth, increasing the speed that each of the packets are processed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

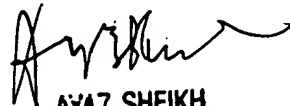
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KA
08/10/2006


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